

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

MC-02 ACDA-05 AID-05 /077 W
----- 082580

P 250145Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4049

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

COMIPAC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3395

FOLLOWING BIEN HOA TEL SENT 24 MAR TO AE SAIGON BEING REPEATED TO
YOU:

CONFIDENTIAL BIEN HOA 207

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJ: MILITARY SITUATION IN MR3

REF: (A) BIEN HOA 203; (B) BIEN HOA 206

1. THIS MESSAGE IS BASED ON A CONVERSATION WITH THE MR3
CHIEF OF STAFF, COL MINH, AND THE MR3 DEPUTY COMMANDER,
MG HIEU, AT 1730 HOURS MAR 24. IN TAY NINH PROVINCE THE
SITUATION APPEARS TO BE STABLE FOR THE MOMENT ALONG LTL-26.
AN NVA ATTACK, SUPPORTED BY TANKS, ON THE RANGER AND RF
BNS AT CHON THANH, WAS SMASHED WITH 10 NVA TANKS REPORTEDLY
DESTROYED. THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE SITUATION
ELSEWHERE IN MR3.

2. DURING THE DAY OF MAR 24 GVN DEFENSES ALONG LTL-26
HELD AND THE SITUATION WAS STABLE THERE WITH LESS NVA
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PRESSURE TOWARD THE END OF THE DAY. MR3 HQ CONTINUES TO

BELIEVE THAT THE NVA SIDE TOOK SUBSTANTIALLY HEAVIER CASUALTIES
IN THE FIGHTING IN THIS AREA MAR 23 THOUGH GVN CASUALTIES
WERE HEAVY, PARTICULARLY IN THE 3RD BN, 7TH REGT, WHICH
FELL INTO AN AMBUSH AFTER INFLECTING ABOUT 200 CASUALTIES
ON THE NVA.

3. AT ABOUT 1100 HOURS MAR 24 NVA FORCES LED BY TANKS ATTACKED
CHON THANH FROM THE SOUTHEAST AND THE SOUTHWEST (NOT FROM
THE NORTH AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED). THE RANGERS AT CHON THANH
HELD THEIR GROUND AND BY AFTERNOON THE NVA ATTACKERS HAD
MAINLY WITHDRAWN, PERHAPS TO REGROUP WHILE MAINTAINING
VERY LIGHT CONTACT. FOUR NVA TANKS ARE CONFIRMED DESTROYED
AND THE DEFENDING RANGERS BELIEVE THAT A TOTAL OF 10 HAVE
BEEN DESTROYED. THE TANKS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN KNOCKED
OUT BY THE XM-202 WEAPON PLUS AIR STRIKES. THE AIR STRIKES
WERE ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE DESTROYED NVA ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS
DEPLOYED FOR THIS ENGAGEMENT.

PETERS
UNQUOTE
LEHMANN

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NNN

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